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COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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Geneva, 12-16 May 1997
Agenda items 2,3,4,5,6,9

SUBSTANTIVE THEME: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICY REVIEWS

ACTION ARISING FROM THE SECOND SESSION

CONSIDERATION OF WAYS AND MEANS OF COMMEMORATING IN 1999 THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIENNA CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND THE VISION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ROLE IN THE AREA OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

ROLE AND ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION REGARDING THE COORDINATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

OTHER MATTERS

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman of the Third Session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

GE.97-51045

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman of the Commission on the basis of informal consultations

Science and technology for development

The Economic and Social Council

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) as a forum for the examination of science and technology questions, for improving understanding of science and technology policies for development and for the formulation of recommendations and guidelines on science and technology matters within the United Nations system, all in relation to development,

Recognizing further that the Commission, in carrying out its work, should pay special attention to the needs and requirements of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and land-locked and small island developing States, and that it should also take into consideration the relevant problems of countries with economies in transition,

Taking note with appreciation of the report prepared by the Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies for Development [1] of the Commission, and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

Recognizing that the social and economic potential of information and communication technologies is enormous, and that the risks for those without the capabilities to access, design, produce and use the new products and service applications may lead to their marginalization from active participation in the global economy,

Noting with satisfaction the report on the scientific and technological aspects of sustainable energy systems, [2]

Noting with satisfaction the report by the Gender Advisory Board on its work, as summarized in document E/CN.16/1997/8, paras. 19-22,

Noting with satisfaction that the science, technology and innovation policy (STIP) reviews directed at a broad spectrum of sectors, including industry, social sectors and government itself, have started, that one review has already been completed, that another is under way and that a third is awaiting financing,

Noting also the other relevant documentation submitted to CSTD for consideration at its third session, [3] [4]

Noting further that the fourth session of the Commission is scheduled to take place 20 years after the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development held in Vienna, and further recognizing that there is a need to define a new vision and to enhance continuously the role for the United Nations system in the area of science and technology for development,

Recalling the decision on its working methods taken by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its second session and ratified by

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[1] E/CN.16/1997/4.

[2] E/CN.16/1997/CRP.1

[3] E/CN.16/1997/2, 3, 5 - 7

[4] E/CN.16/1997/CRP 1 - 6

the Economic and Social Council, [5]

Recognizing that enhanced transparency and accountability are essential for the efficient and effective functioning of the Commission,

Welcoming the UNESCO initiative in holding a World Science Conference in 1999 to strengthen the commitment of countries to scientific research and development in the service of societal progress,

Activities as follow-up to the earlier work of the Commission

Information and communication technologies (ICT) for development

1. Recommends that each developing country and country in transition establish a national ICT strategy taking into account, *inter alia*, the guidelines proposed by the CSTD Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies for Development; where such strategies already exist, they could be reviewed in the light of these guidelines;

2. Recommends that action be taken by national Governments to establish a task force or commission or to ensure that an existing entity be charged with the design of the national ICT strategy;

3. Invites countries, in order to facilitate the exchange of experiences among them at the international and regional levels, to prepare a report on their ICT strategies for the next session of the Commission in 1999; this report should include the priorities of each national ICT strategy, the mechanisms for updating, and the procedures for implementing the strategy; to enhance the value of the reports, consideration might be given to the organization of workshops, all of these to be financed from extra-budgetary resources;

4. Invites relevant bodies of the United Nations system to assess their capability to provide assistance and promote cooperation in the ICT area and to suggest areas in which they are best able to assist developing countries and countries in transition in the design and implementation of their national ICT strategies;

5. Requests the secretariat of the Commission to synthesize the results of these assessments and, within existing resources, to hold an inter-agency meeting in cooperation with the Commission to review this synthesis;

6. Invites Governments, the public and business sectors, academia and NGOs in industrialized countries to engage in technological cooperation activities with counterparts in developing countries and countries in transition in order to facilitate their access, encourage the use, production and development of ICTs and to ensure their effective participation in building the GII;

7. Requests the CSTD to identify an independent institute to prepare a study for the next session of the Commission on new forms of resource generation, involving ICTs, which may support social and economic development priorities;

STIP reviews

8. Decides that the Commission organize a workshop comparing the experiences in STIP or STIP-like reviews in developing countries and countries in transition, in order to stimulate a learning process in these innovative

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[5] ECOSOC decision 2/101: Working methods of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. ECOSOC regular session, July 1995.

efforts, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources;

9. Recommends the continuation of cooperation between the Commission and UNCTAD on the STIP reviews;

Common vision of the future of science and technology for development

10. Recommends that the Commission, in the form of expert group meetings, carry out a programme of preparation as outlined in the report of the meeting of the preparatory working group for this subject, held on 20-21 December 1996 in Geneva, taking into account regional inputs;

Gender Advisory Board

11. Requests the Gender Advisory Board to continue its work as reported, in collaboration with all relevant organizations, in particular those within the United Nations system;

New substantive theme and other activities

12. Decides that the substantive theme for the inter-sessional period 1997-1999 will be "Science and technology partnerships and networking for national capacity-building". This will include North-South as well as South-South partnerships and networks involving, *inter alia*, enterprises, educational bodies, research institutions, governmental science and technology departments and other actors in the field of science and technology,with particular attention to be paid to biotechnology and energy;

13. Decides further to hold a panel meeting on biotechnology and its impact on development, bringing together country experts and those from relevant institutions and United Nations agencies working on this subject, in order to identify critical issues relevant to development not sufficiently covered by existing fora, with particular attention to food production, and recommend how further work on these issues might be undertaken;

Budget and inter-sessional activities

14. Recommends that in any future sessions of the Commission the report on the budget and inter-sessional activities of the Commission be considered under a separate agenda item;

Coordination of science and technology for development in the United Nations system

15. Decides that the CSTD secretariat be requested to study the possibility of setting up, in collaboration with other United Nations bodies, including regional commissions, an electronic network on their activities in science and technology for development, making this network widely accessible to science and technology institutes around the world;

16. Further decides that, in order to promote better interaction with United Nations bodies, especially the regional commissions, the CSTD give consideration to including suitably qualified members of these bodies in the working groups of the Commission; in addition, meetings of the CSTD working groups might be held in the offices of the regional commissions whenever possible;

Coalition of resources

17. Recommends that a workshop be convened by the Commission to provide a forum for coalition of resources, particularly in relation to ICTs.